

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Joseph Mason Sprague,) Civil Action No. 0:21-1571-BHH
Petitioner,)
)
v.)
)
Warden Barnes,)
)
)
Respondent.)
)
_____)

ORDER

Joseph Mason Sprague (“Petitioner”) filed a *pro se* petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2)(c) (D.S.C.), the matter was referred to a United States Magistrate Judge for initial review.

On August 31, 2021, Magistrate Judge Paige J. Gossett filed a Report and Recommendation (“Report”) outlining the issues and recommending that the Court grant Respondent’s motion to dismiss and dismiss the petition as moot. Attached to the Report was a notice advising Petitioner of the right to file written objections to the Report within fourteen days of being served with a copy. No objections have been filed.

The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to the Court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with the Court. *Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261 (1976). The Court is charged with making a *de novo* determination only of those portions of the Report to which specific objections are made, and the Court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the recommendation of the Magistrate Judge, or recommit the matter to the Magistrate Judge with instructions. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). In the absence of specific objections, the Court reviews the matter only for clear error. *See Diamond v. Colonial Life*

& Accident Ins. Co., 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005) (stating that “in the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation” (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 72 advisory committee’s note)).

Here, because no objections were filed, the Court has reviewed the record, the applicable law, and the findings and recommendations of the Magistrate Judge for clear error. After review, the Court finds no error and agrees with the Magistrate Judge that the instant § 2241 petition should be dismissed because Petitioner was released from Bureau of Prisons custody on July 30, 2021, and his petition is now moot.

Accordingly, the Court adopts and incorporates the Magistrate Judge’s Report (ECF No. 23), grants Respondent’s motion to dismiss (ECF No. 11), and dismisses this action as moot.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/Bruce H. Hendricks
United States District Judge

October 21, 2021
Charleston, South Carolina

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

The parties are hereby notified that any right to appeal this Order is governed by Rules 3 and 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.